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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/995,320	11/26/2001	Wolfgang Bross	100111406-2	9508

7590                    07/27/2005

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EXAMINER

MCALLISTER, STEVEN B

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3627

DATE MAILED: 07/27/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b>	<b>Applicant(s)</b>	
	09/995,320	BROSS ET AL.	
	<b>Examiner</b>	<b>Art Unit</b>	
	Steven B. McAllister	3627	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

#### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

#### Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 16 May 2005.
- 2a) This action is FINAL.                    2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

#### Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-35 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-35 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

#### Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

#### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a) All    b) Some \* c) None of:
    1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
    2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
    3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

#### Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) Other: \_\_\_\_\_

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112***

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 7-9, 24-26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

In claims 7 and 24, "the standardized transaction-tax interface model" lacks antecedent basis. Also in claims 7 and 24, "at least one other transaction-tax-related application" is unclear since only one application is recited.

In claim 8, it is not clear whether "a standardized transaction-tax interface model" refers to a second model or the one recited in claim 7.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

Claims 7-9, 14-35 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Sullivan (2003/0093320).

Sullivan shows storing transaction related data received from at least one other application in a data warehouse comprising databases (see Figs. 1,2) according to a

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data warehouse data model, the interface data model enabling communication between applications.

As to claim 8, Sullivan further shows exchanging data to be stored between transaction tax applications (e.g., 270-274, tax calculator) according to a standardized data model (see e.g., Figs 1,2).

As to claim 9, it is inherent that since data passed through interface is stored in the data warehouse, the data warehouse data model comprises, equals or is a subset of the set of elements in the interface data model.

As to claims 14-17, Sullivan shows a memory device comprising for instance a hard drive of a computer housing all claimed information.

Additionally, it is noted that the information the recitation of information stored on the apparatus is not further limiting on an apparatus claim, but is merely intended use of the apparatus.

As to claims 18 and 35, Sullivan shows an apparatus having a software interface for linking first and second tax related applications (e.g. 270-274, tax calculator) such that data are exchangeable according to a standard interface, enabling communication between the applications.

As to claim 19, 20, 22 and 23, each of the two transaction tax applications uses its own (different) application-specific data model since it handles different data, and the data elements of the respective data models are mapped to the interface data model.

As to claim 21, each of the respective application data models is different from the interface data model since it deals with different data.

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As to claim 24, Sullivan shows a data warehouse module comprising memory device housing databases (see e.g., Figs. 1,2) configured for storing the information.

As to claim 25, Sullivan shows a software interface for linking the warehouse with at least the second application such that data is exchangeable between them according to a standard interface data model.

As to claim 26, since data passed through interface is stored in the data warehouse, the data warehouse data model comprises, equals or is a subset of the set of elements in the interface data model.

As to claims 27 and 31, at least one of the first and second applications is a logging module,' a compliance module, a tax filing module, a tax calculation module, a tax content module, or a database for storing tax data (see e.g., "tax calculator").

As to claims 28 and 32, as broadly claimed, at least one of the applications is one of a basic and a micro service module.

As to claims 29, 30, 33 and 34, Sullivan shows that the mapping is governed by defined rules configurable (see e.g., Figs. 3) by the user and implemented by a lookup table.

Additionally, as to claims 24-26 and 31-34, it is noted that the information the recitation of information stored on the apparatus is not further limiting on an apparatus claim, but is merely intended use of the apparatus.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-6, and 10-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over Sullivan (2003/0093320).

Sullivan shows exchanging transaction-related data between at least a first and a second transaction tax related application (e.g., modules 270, 272, 276, 274, tax calculator) according to a standardized interface data model for those applications, wherein the applications are located on different machines (par. 0037), enabling communication between the applications. It is noted that the placement of any of the applications on a different server, as disclosed by Sullivan fulfills the claim language.

Alternatively, Sullivan shows all elements above except that the modules are located on different machines. However, it is notoriously old and well known in the art to place different software modules on separate networked machines. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the method of Sullivan by placing at least one different application on a different server in order to minimize the storage and processing load on each machine.

As to claim 2, 3, 5 and 6, it is inherent that each of the two transaction tax applications uses its own (different) application-specific data model since it handles

different data, and the data elements of the respective data models are mapped to the interface data model.

As to claim 4, each of the respective application data models is different from the interface data model since it deals with different data.

As to claim 10, at least one of the first and second applications is a logging module, a compliance module, a tax filing module, a tax calculation module, a tax content module, or a database for storing tax data (see e.g. "Tax Calculator").

As to claim 11, as broadly claimed, at least one of the applications is one of a basic and a micro service module.

As to claims 12 and 13, Sullivan shows that the mapping is governed by defined rules configurable by the user (see e.g., Fig. 3) and implemented by a lookup table.

### ***Response to Arguments***

Applicant's arguments filed 5/16/2005 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant argues that Sullivan does not show all claimed elements. It appears that applicant argues that it is not shown that the applications are disclosed by Sullivan as being on different machines. It is noted that the reference shows several tax applications in Fig.1 and recites in par. 0037 that they can be on any number of different machines. The examiner therefore believes that the recited structure is shown.

Regarding the data model, the applications of Sullivan inherently have a data model associated with them, defining data used and transferred to and from the application.

### ***Conclusion***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Steven B. McAllister whose telephone number is 5710272-6785. The examiner can normally be reached on M-Th 8-6:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Alexander Kalinowski can be reached on 571-272-6771. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Steven B. McAllister  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 3627

  
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**STEVE B. MCALLISTER  
PRIMARY EXAMINER**